



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
09/710,487	11/10/2000	John Josef Hench	VOY-030	5334		
26875	7590	02/02/2009	EXAMINER			
WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, LLP 2700 CAREW TOWER 441 VINE STREET CINCINNATI, OH 45202				LY, ANH VU H		
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER				
2416						
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE				
02/02/2009		PAPER				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/710,487	HENCH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ANH-VU H. LY	2416	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4,6-20,22,24-31,33 and 35-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,6-20,22,24-31,33 and 35-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 1,7-10,12,13,15,19,22,26,30,31,36 and 38 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1, 7-10, 12-13, 15, 19, 22, 26, 30-31, 36, and 38 are objected to because of the following informalities:

With respect to claim 1, in line 3, replace “inputting data from a plurality of channels of the communications system” with --inputting data from a plurality of channels into a prediction module of the communications system-- to overcome 35 U.S.C 101 rejections. Please see In Re Bilski or May 15, 2008 memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examining Policy, John, J. Love, titled "Clarification of 'Processes' under 35 U.S.C. 101. Since a series of steps must be tied to another statutory category such as an apparatus or transform underlying subject matter. Further, in line 5, replace “the channel” with --at least one of the plurality of channels-- since, in line 4, recites “at least one of the plurality of channels”.

With respect to claims 8-10, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, and 38, a period --- must be inserted at the end of the claim for termination.

With respect to claim 7, in lines 4-5, replace “the channel” with --at least one of the plurality of channels--.

With respect to claim 13, in lines 5 and 9, replace "the channel" with --at least one channel--. Further, in line 8, “fords” is mistyped.

With respect to claim 30, in line 3, replace “inputting data from at least one channel of the communications system” with --inputting data from at least one channel into a prediction module of the communications system-- to overcome 35 U.S.C 101 rejections. Please see In Re Bilski or May 15, 2008 memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examining

Policy, John, J. Love, titled "Clarification of 'Processes' under 35 U.S.C. 101. Since a series of steps but be tied to another statutory category such as an apparatus or transform underlying subject matter. Further, in lines 8 and 10, replace "the channel" with --at least one channel--.

With respect to claim 31, in line 2, replace "the channel" with --at least one channel--.

With respect to claim 36, in lines 3-5, replace "the channel" with --at least one channel--.

Further, a period --- must be inserted at the end of the claim for termination.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2, 4, 6-20, 22, 24-31, 33, and 35-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Green et al (US Patent No. 6,625,255 B1). Hereinafter, referred to as Green.

With respect to claims 1, 13, 20, and 30, Green discloses a method for the prediction and optimization of a communication system (Figs. 1, 4, and 5) comprising:

inputting data from a plurality of channels of the communications system (Fig. 5, block 512);

predicting a performance of at least one of the plurality of channels using a plurality of parameters to characterize the performance of the channel (Fig. 5, block 506);

creating at least one transform function model of the at least one of the plurality of channels, wherein the at least one transfer function model is simulated using physical configuration information of the communications system (col. 7, lines 56-60, the characterization may also include the development of a transfer function that reflects the results of the field testing of the reference loop and this transfer function may be employed in reference loop simulation); and

optimizing the parameters of at least one of the plurality of channels in order to improve a bit rate of the at least one of the plurality of channels in the communication system (col. 7, line 64 – col. 8, line 9).

With respect to claims 2, 20, and 31, Green discloses that wherein predicting the performance of the at least one of the plurality of channels comprises:

inputting data from at least one channel of the communications system into a prediction module (Fig. 4, block 400);

determining an impairment on the at least one channel (Fig. 4, block 410);

characterization the at last one channel using the at least one transfer function model and the impairment (col. 4, lines 21-25, this characterization may include the development of a transfer function which models the effects, such as attenuation, flat noise, and coupled noise of the reference loop on signals, such as tones, transmitted through it).

With respect to claims 4, 22, and 33, Green discloses that wherein the at least one transfer function model is simulated using a spectrum management system (col. 7, lines 3-5, the

attenuation profile is applied to a loop simulation across a signal frequency range, such as an ADSL signal frequency range. Herein, loop simulation across a signal frequency range is a bandwidth simulation system).

With respect to claims 6, 24, and 35, Green discloses that wherein the impairment is selected from the group consisting of cross-talk impairment, AM radio interference, a temperature impairment, and any combination thereof (col. 7, lines 53-55).

With respect to claims 7 and 36, Green discloses that wherein optimizing the parameters comprises:

- a) choosing a first parameter for the channel (Fig. 4, block 406);
- b) choosing a second parameter for the channel (Fig. 4, block 408);
- c) determining an optimization criteria for the channel based upon the first parameter and second parameter (Fig. 4, block 410);
- d) repeating a) - c) until the optimization criteria is optimized for the communication system (Fig. 4).

With respect to claims 8, 15, 25, and 37, Green discloses that wherein the communications system is a wireline communications system (Fig. 3).

With respect to claims 9, 16, 26, and 38, Green discloses that wherein the communications system is a wireless communications system (col. 1, line 57).

With respect to claims 10, 17, 27, and 39, Green discloses that wherein the communications system is an optical communications system (col. 1, line 58).

With respect to claims 11, 18, 28, and 40, Green discloses that wherein the communications system is a cable communications system (Fig. 3).

With respect to claims 12, 19, 29, and 41, Green discloses that wherein the communications system is a DSL communications system (Fig. 3).

With respect to claim 14, Green discloses that wherein the design criteria are selected from the group consisting of a cost of deployment, a signal to noise ratio, total revenue, bit rate, and any combination thereof (Fig. 4).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 4, 6-20, 22, 24-31, 33, and 35-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANH-VU H. LY whose telephone number is (571)272-3175. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on 571-272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Anh-Vu H Ly/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2416